

Street Tree Preservation -- No. 500700

Category
Agency
Planning Area
Relocation Impact

Transportation
Public Works & Transportation
Countywide
None.

Date Last Modified
Required Adequate Public Facility

March 27, 2006
NO

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000)

Cost Element	Total	Thru FY05	Est. FY06	Total 6 Years	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design and Supervision	175	0	0	175	175	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Site Improvements and Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	2,125	0	0	2,125	2,125	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,300	0	0	2,300	2,300	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000)

Current Revenue:											
General	2,300	0	0	2,300	2,300	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (\$000)

DESCRIPTION

This project provides for the preservation of street trees through proactive pruning that will include the removal of limbs to: reduce safety hazards to pedestrians and motorists; preserve the health and longevity of trees; correct structural imbalances/defects; improve aesthetics and adjacent property values; and improve sight distance. Proactive pruning will prevent premature deterioration, minimize liability, reduce storm damage potential and costs, improve appearance and enhance the condition of street trees.

Service Area

Countywide, excluding the Agricultural Reserve.

Capacity

Approximately 15,300 trees will be pruned in FY07.

JUSTIFICATION

Prior to FY84 the County provided for scheduled cyclical pruning every six years for all trees in the old Suburban District. This work was funded through the dedicated Suburban District Tax. Between FY84 and FY97, fiscal constraints caused a reduction in pruning to a 40-90 year cycle. In FY97, the County eliminated the Suburban District Tax and expanded its street tree maintenance program from the old Suburban District to include the entire County and the street tree population increased from an estimated 100,000 to over 250,000 trees. Since that time, only pruning in reaction to emergency/safety concerns has been provided. A street tree has a life expectancy of 60 years and, under current conditions, a majority of street trees will never receive any pruning. Lack of cyclical pruning leads to increased storm damage and cleanup costs, right-of-way obstruction and safety hazards to pedestrians and motorists, premature death and decay from disease, weakening of structural integrity, and increased public security risks. Healthy street trees provide a myriad of public benefits including energy savings, aesthetic enhancements that soften the hard edges of buildings and pavements, property value enhancement, mitigation of various airborne pollutants, reduction in the urban heat island effect, and stormwater management enhancement. Various CIP projects provide for the preservation, revitalization, restoration, or protection of all types of public infrastructure.

Plans and Studies

The "Forest Preservation Strategy" Task Force Report (October, 2000) recommends the development of a "green infrastructure" CIP project for street tree maintenance. The "Forest Preservation Strategy Update" (July, 2004) reinforced the need for a CIP project that addresses street trees. Also, see recommendations in the inter-agency study of tree management practices by the Office of Legislative Oversight (Report #2004-8 - September, 2004) and the Tree Inventory Report and Management Plan by Appraisal, Consulting, Research, and Training Inc. (November, 1995). Studies have shown that healthy trees provide significant year-round energy savings. Winter windbreaks can lower heating costs by 10 to 20 percent and summer shade can lower cooling costs by 15 to 35 percent. Every tree that is planted and maintained saves \$20 in energy costs per year. In addition, a healthy street tree canopy captures the first 1/2 inch of rainfall reducing the need for stormwater management facilities.

Cost Change

Not applicable

STATUS

Planning stage

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA

Date First Appropriation	FY07	(\$000)
Initial Cost Estimate		2,300
First Cost Estimate		
Current Scope	FY07	2,300
Last FY's Cost Estimate		0
Present Cost Estimate		2,300
Appropriation Request	FY07	2,300
Appropriation Request Est.	FY08	0
Supplemental		
Appropriation Request	FY06	0
Transfer		0
Cumulative Appropriation		0
Expenditures/		
Encumbrances		0
Unencumbered Balance		0
Partial Closeout Thru	FY04	0
New Partial Closeout	FY05	0
Total Partial Closeout		0

COORDINATION

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
Commission
Department of Environmental Protection
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Utility companies

MAP

